travelling on such tickets/travelling without tickets through checks is an ongoing activity. Date-wise figures of such checks are not maintained. However, the date for the period 05.07.2009 to 29.07.2009 are as under:

Railway	Number of touts/agents apprehended	Number of persons apprehended travelling on tickets purchases in other's names	Number of passengers travelling without tickets
Central	15	158	28148
Eastern	16	5	30911
East Central	4	1	15534
East Coast	1	4	2383
Northern	65	50	30525
North Central	Nil	24	6436
North Eastern	4	2	12527
Northeast Frontier	1	14	3774
North Western	3	17	20697
Southern	49	1707	18654
South Central	1	45	34652
South Eastern	2	Nil	16783
South East Central	Nil	Nil	2376
South Western	3	18	Nil
Western	8	52	34836
West Central	15	12	49
TOTAL	187	2109	248285

Since persons travelling on other's tickets in reserved accommodation are apprehended and charged by the ticket checking staff in the running trains, Division-Wise originating journeys of such passengers is not segregated.

(d) Orders have been issued to intensify such checks and effectively combat the menace of touts, passengers travelling without tickets, etc., so as to provide better service to the genuine passengers.

Loss of crops due to floods in Assam

*491. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of rice and other agricultural products in Assam has been affected by heavy floods and the farmers are facing immense loss due to such perennial problem every year;

(b) if so, the details of action plan to provide protection to the farmers and to increase the agricultural production;

(c) whether various mission agencies working under the Ministry have forwarded any views or plan of action in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) Flood occurs almost every year in the State of Assam and affects the production of kharif crops, mainly winter paddy. According to the State Government, due to the floods of 2007-08 and 2008-09, about 5.82 lakh hectares and 3.15 lakh hectares of area, respectively, were affected. The State Government has informed loss of 5 human lives and damage to about 6348 hectares of cropped area during South-West Monsoon 2009.

2. The State Government has further informed that they have been taking up contingency measures under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and State plan schemes.

3. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods to mitigate its impact through funds available in CRF. However, in case additional assistance is required for relief operations, Government of India considers it on the submission of a detailed Memorandum by the State Government.

4. Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture is constantly monitoring the kharif sowing operations in various States including Assam, in consultation with the State Government and other concerned agencies, and assistance is available to Assam through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes under implementation in the State.

Adulteration of edible oil with animal fat

*492. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the media reports regarding adulteration of edible vegetable oil with animal fat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps Government has taken or propose to take in such cases;

(d) whether responsibility of local authority has been fixed in such cases of adulteration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?